

## Scintilla ad Flaccum scribit

Translate the first paragraph of the following passage and answer the questions on the letter

paucis post diebus Flaccus epistolam accēpit; celeriter signum frēgit; Scintilla omnia scripserat quae Venusiae facta erant, ex quō Rōmam abierant. Flaccus Quīntum statim vocāvit epistolamque recitāvit:

5 Scintilla virō filiōque cārissimīs salūtem plūrimam dat.  
prīmum, ego Horātiaque valēmus et rēs bene agimus.  
iuuenis quī Horātiam amat nōs iuvat; filius est veteris tuī amīcī  
Terentiī. ovēs cūrat; omnēs iam tetondit; plūrimam lānam  
habēmus. segetēs mātūrae sunt, sed magna siccitās fuit; ex  
10 quō Rōmam abiistis rārō pluit. itaque segetēs nōn bonae sunt.  
vīnētum tamen flōret; plūrimās ūvās habēbimus. contentae  
sumus, sed vōs valdē dēsiderāmus. Argus trīstis est; Quīntum  
semper quaerit.

et vōs, cārissimī, iter longum cōnfēcistis et Rōmam  
15 incolumēs advēnistis? Quīntusne iam in lūdō Orbiliī studet?  
domicilium invēnistis? nōndum epistolam accēpimus. sine  
morā scribe longam epistolam et nārrā nōbīs omnia quae  
accidērunt. cūrā, mī cārissime vir, ut valeās, et Quīntum filium  
nostrum cārissimum dīliger cūrā.

20 Venusiae data Kalendīs Quīntilibus.

signum the seal

facta erant had happened

ex quō (tempore) since

cārissimīs dearest; salūtem

plūrimam warmest greetings

valēmus we are well

ovēs sheep; tetondit has sheared

lānam wool; segetēs crops

mātūrae ripe; siccitās drought

rārō pluit it has seldom rained

vīnētum vineyard; flōret is

flourishing; ūvās grapes

habēbimus we shall have

dēsiderāmus we miss

domicilium a lodging

nōndum not yet; morā delay

accidērunt has happened

ut valeās that you keep well

data (epistola) given (to the postman)

Kalendīs Quīntilibus on 1 July

- 1 Scintilla's letter follows the form (beginning and end) usual in Roman letters; how does this form differ from that of our letters? [4]
- 2 How are Scintilla and Horatia managing to run the farm? [3]
- 3 Why aren't the crops good? [3]
- 4 What is the matter with Argus? [2]
- 5 What items of news does Scintilla want from Flaccus? [4]

## THE GAMES

In a place such as Rome where so many citizens were poor or unemployed, the public shows put on for them were of great importance as something to look forward to in their grim lives. And mounting these shows gave the magistrates an opportunity to display their wealth and social status as well as to win popularity – and votes – among the common people who would noisily express their appreciation for the free entertainment. At the time of our story there were sixty-four days of shows in the Roman calendar. Soon, as politicians such as Julius Caesar went all out for self-advertisement, the number was to increase dramatically. And of course shows were held not only at Rome but at towns all over the Roman world, including Verulamium and Caerleon in Britain.